

Community Garden – Our Story

Woodstock is a community that values all natural resources as essential assets and critically analyzes all new developments to evaluate environmental impacts. As a sign of this commitment, and in an effort to identify and act to preserve and/or enhance these resources, the Woodstock Environmental Commission was formed to develop a comprehensive Environmental Plan. Environmental Conservation and Preservation is one of Woodstock's core values. Its commitment is evidenced by Woodstock being the first community in Illinois to institute curbside recycling and the first to establish the "Adopt a Highway" program. Its vision is to remain a connected green community where all natural resources are valued as essential assets of the community and new developments are critically analyzed to evaluate environmental impact.

A long term goal identified by the Environmental Commission is the development of a community garden. Just recently, the City Council supported the development of a community garden at the undeveloped Castle Road Park. The project is proposed to open in the spring of 2019 and it is being referred to as the Woodstock Community **GREENS** representing "**G**ardening for **R**ecreation, **E**nvironment, **E**ducation, **N**utrition, and **S**tewardship." Each Commission Member is active in the development of the gardens which is being proposed to Increase access to fresh foods, increase physical activity through garden maintenance activities, improve dietary habits through education, improve mental health and promote relaxation. Social ties are important to the wellbeing of people in a community since they can bring positive health effects and community involvement. Community gardens allow for the creation of social ties and build a greater feeling of community.

